

**Approved Minutes
Clean Energy Development Board
Quarterly Meeting – June 16, 2014**

In Attendance:

| Board Members: | Attending | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Sam Swanson | X | |
| Jo Bradley | | X |
| Jennifer Hollar | | X |
| Linda McGinnis | X | |
| Johanna Miller | X | |
| Gaye Symington | X | |
| Mark Whitworth | X | |

State Employees:

Andrew Perchlik, Manager - Clean Energy Development Fund, PSD

Members of the Public:

Tom Tailer & Jessie-Ruth Corkins – Vermont Sustainable Heating Initiative.

Materials Presented: Draft agenda, draft minutes from the Board's 4/9/14 meetings and the 5/8 meeting; Program plan update for FY '14; FY '15 Draft Plan materials.

Minutes

Meeting brought to order at 9:36 with Andrew Perchlik presiding.

- I. **Agenda:** The draft agenda was discussed and was approved. There was an introduction of Johanna Miller as a newly appointed member of the Board.
- II. **Annual Plan Adoption Process and Public Comments:** Perchlik described the process and schedule and agree to send the Board members the public comment received in weekly batches as they come in.
- III. **FY 2014 Program Update:** Perchlik gave an update on current programs, and the preliminary grant awards made in the Farm Food-waste and Community Solar solicitations.
- IV. **Draft Plan Discussion:** There was general discussion on the draft plan as well as some specific points made:
 - a. Board members questioned whether to include a \$ figure for what the CEDF expects in future years. The draft plan has "at least \$2 million". There was agreement that the plan should be based on the CEDF receiving future funding but because the level of funding is unknown the plan shouldn't have an arbitrary number. There was agreement that wording

should be changed to say that the assumption is that the CEDF will receive additional funding commensurate with State clean energy goals.

- b. It was recommended that the State's clean energy goals be listed in an introductory section of report, and the CEDF's role in meeting those goals be explained. There was agreement on this point.
- c. It was suggested that wording about the State's economic development and environmental goals also be included.
- d. There was agreement that the Plan should provide more rationale for the proposed focus on modern wood heating.
- e. It was suggested that the Plan should be clear on what is meant by "modern wood heat" and explain what it is not.
- f. There was discussion on the Windham County section of the Plan and questions on if there was support from Windham County for it. It was suggested that the Plan describe how local comments, local initiatives, and decision making are being incorporated into the Plan.
- g. The Board heard from Tom Tailer and Jessie-Ruth Corkins of Vt Sustainable Heating Initiative. They spoke in favor of wood pellet heating and in particular their plan to have cooperative owned pellet mills be built in Windham and Chittenden County; the need to have more local pellet supply; and to have a program to support low income Vermonters to make the transition to modern wood heating.
- h. There was a general discussion on the issue of low-income serving energy programs and whether that should be a focus or program design priority for the CEDF. Perchlik said that while the CEDF supports such efforts they are not part of the Fund's legislative mandate or the CEDF's Strategic plan and thus shouldn't be a focus or a priority, but that the Funds shouldn't be oblivious to the issue either.
- i. There was a discussion of the SSREIP and whether the incentive for PV systems should be eliminated at the end of the 2014 calendar year as proposed in the draft plan. Some members had concerns about ending the PV incentive. There was agreement that the Plan should be clear in its language that the CEDF is not ending its support of PV overall even if the SSREIP incentive ends. There was support to continue the PV incentive for the Special Customer category (low-income housing and municipalities/schools). Perchlik agreed to provide information on how much it would cost to keep the PV incentive for Special Customers into 2015.
 - i. There was agreement that the language in the Plan on this issue needs more about why the CEDF is going to end the PV incentive. It was suggested that the Plan should address how to ensure quality control of PV installations, that is now being done by the SSREIP, if the incentive ends. Perchlik agreed to include this additional information in the Plan and also to send to the Board.
- j. There were several other requests by the Board for the Plan:
 - i. Have the SSREIP budget listed in a table
 - ii. If the solar heating pilot is done then do on low-income homes
 - iii. The SHW metering could be part of the evaluation budget and not in the SSREIP budget
 - iv. The Plan should talk about the number of solar jobs in Vermont and the CEDF's support of this industry despite ending the PV incentive.

- v. Perchlik agreed to send to the Board the projections of how much of the \$1.7 million budgeted for the SSREIP would go to the proposed pellet boiler incentive. He also agreed to include this number in the next version of the Plan.
- k. Swanson asked that the rationale for the large commitment to wood fueled heating explain briefly the steps that will be taken to ensure that these programs will also serve the State commitment to reducing Vermont's climate change emissions.

With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:43

DRAFT